

A Restriction Requirement has been asserted between the following groups:

Group I: claims 1-3, drawn to an epitope;

Group II: claim 4, drawn to an antibody; and

Group III: claim 5, drawn to an application of an epitope.

Applicant hereby elects Group II, claim 4, with traverse.

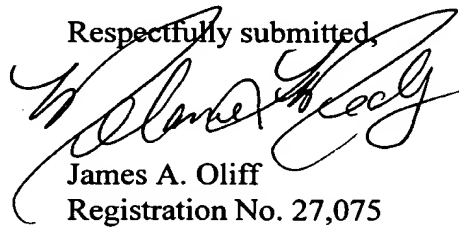
It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all of claims 1-5 are sufficiently related that a thorough search of the subject matter of any one group of claims would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining claims. In particular, a search of claims directed to an antibody would clearly encompass a search for an epitope that recognizes that antibody. Thus, a search for the subject matter of Group II would clearly encompass a search for the subject matter of Group I, which would in turn encompass a search for applications of this epitope. Therefore, a search and examination of the non-elected claims with the claims of Group II would not place a serious additional burden on the Examiner.

M.P.E.P. §803 states that "if the search and examination of the entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits" (emphasis added). It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicant and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement. Early and favorable action on the merits is respectfully requested.



Respectfully submitted,


James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Melanie L. Mealy
Registration No. 40,085

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Attachment:
Appendix

Date: August 6, 2001

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

<p>DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461</p>
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APPENDIX

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Changes to Claims:

The following is a marked-up version of the amended claim:

4. (Amended) Monoclonal or polyclonal antibody to the SRTag having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 as an epitope for any tagged protein, wherein said tagged protein is detected by a mouse monoclonal antibody when the oligonucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 corresponding to SRTag is fused to any protein gene desired to be expressed and detected in bacteria or mammalian cells.